

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

ACDA-19 T-03 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 MBFR-03 EB-11 FAA-00

GAC-01 /140 W

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R 141645 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1526

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD OPS AND AEAGG- OCO

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0451

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PBOR, UR

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS IN SOUTH CORRIDOR

REF: BERLIN 431

1. AT 1015 MARCH 14, CHIEF US ELEMENT BASC, MADE FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENTS, WITH WHICH BRITISH AND FRENCH CHIEFS ASSOCIATED, TO SOVIET CHIEF, CHERKASHIN:

QUOTE AT 1450 LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 28, A MIG- TYPE AIRCRAFT PERFORMING A TURNING MANEUVER PASSED WITHIN TWO HUNDRED FEET OF PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT 725, WHICH WAS PROCEEDING IN A SOUTH- WESTERLY DIRECTION AT FLIGHT LEVEL 100 IN THE SOUTH CORRIDOR SOME 35 MILES FROM TEMPELHOF. AT 1252 LOCAL TIME, MARCH 10, ANOTHER PAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT, FLIGHT 735, WHICH WAS PROCEEDING AT FLIGHT LEVEL 100 IN THE SOUTH CORRIDOR, SOME 28 MILES SOUTHWEST OF TEMPELHOF, OBSERVED A MIG- TYPE AIRCRAFT PERFORMING A LOOP. IN THE COURSE OF PERFORMING THIS DANGEROUS AND
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ILLEGAL MANEUVER THE MIG AIRCRAFT PASSED THROUGH THE ALTITUDE OF THE PAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER MILE AHEAD AND THEN PASSED OVER THE TRANSPORT AT A DISTANCE OF LESS THAN 200 YARDS.

ON BOTH OCCASIONS, THE PAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE PROCEEDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROPERLY FILED FLIGHT PLANS WHICH HAD BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE SOVIET ELEMENT IN THE BERLIN AIR SAFETY CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED QUADRI-PARTITE PROCEDURES. THE SOVIET ELEMENT WAS ALSO NOTIFIED OF BOTH INCIDENTS.

TWO SUCH DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES WITHIN A PERIOD OF LESS THAN TWO WEEKS ARE A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO MY AUTHORITIES AND TO ALL OF US WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR SAFETY. THE PERFORMANCE OF AEROBATICS IN THE CORRIDORS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY QUADRI-PARTITE AGREEMENT, AND SUCH MANEUVERS REPRESENT A SERIOUS HAZARD TO FLIGHT SAFETY, AS IS INDICATED BY THE TWO INCIDENTS TO WHICH I REFER. MY AUTHORITIES HOLD THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE AGREED RULES OF FLIGHT BY ALL AIRCRAFT WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION, AND EXPECT THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE MEASURES TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO REPETITION OF SUCH INCIDENTS. END QUOTE.

2. SOVIET CHIEF SAID HE WOULD RELAY STATEMENT TO HIS AUTHORITIES AND THAT REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HE AGREED THAT AEROBATICS WERE IMPERMISSIBLE AND STATED THAT SOVIETS WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN FLIGHT SAFETY. UPON DEPARTING, CHERKASHIN INDICATED THAT IF INVESTIGATION SHOWED FACTS WERE AS WE INDICATED, STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO PRECLUDE SUCH UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS.

3. USCOB CONCURS. KELIN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS
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